Expansion of AAY in Andhra Pradesh

1237. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Society for elimination of rural poverty has estimated on the basis of the World Bank criteria that in Andhra Pradesh 23,84,535 families are at the risk of hunger;

(b) if so, whether it is fact that so far only 10,34,545 families in rural areas have been covered under the Antyodaya Anna Yojana; and

(c) if so, the details of the work-plan of Government to cover the left over families under the next expansion of Antyodaya Anna Yojana?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. As reported by the State Government of Andhra Pradesh, 13.68 lakh families in rural areas are covered under the Antyodaya Anna Yojana as on date.

(c) The allocation of foodgrains under TPDS is made on the basis of number of household estimated on the basis of poverty estimates of the Planning Commission for 1993-94 projected on the population projection of Registrar General as on 1.3.2000 or the number of ration cards issued by the State Government whichever is less. This procedure is uniformly followed throughout the country and can not be altered for any State in isolation.

At present 15.578 lakh AAY families in the State of Andhra Pradesh (Rural & Urban) are entitled for foodgrains under AAY. The State Government have identified and issued distinctive ration cards to 15.578 lakh families. Allocation of foodgrains is already being made to the State Government for all these identified AAY families at the prescribed scale of issue.

No further expansion of AAY is contemplated at present.

Damage to environment due to global warming

1238. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any assessment of damage to environment in the country has been done on account of global warming;

(b) whether global warming is likely to affect monsoon, winter and summer seasons; and

(c) if so, in what manner?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (c) A preliminary assessment of impacts and vulnerability due to projected climate change in key sectors such as water, agriculture, forestry, ecosystems, coastal zones, health, energy and infrastructure has been undertaken. The projected climate change scenarios indicate increase in and variable trend of both rainfall and temperature into 21st century. It is projected that quantity of surface run off due to climate change would reduce and vary across the various river basins. The initial analysis has revealed that climate change may have adverse effects in terms of severity of droughts and intensity of floods in various parts of the country. Increase in CO_2 concentration; increase in temperature and variable distribution of rainfall show a mixed projection of yields of various crops across the regions. No definite trends have yet been established. Forest types in India seem to be highly vulnerable to the projected changes in climate. Coastal areas are also vulnerable to climate variability in varying degrees.

The Government of India is seized of the various concerns that may arise due to climate change. The existing legislative and policy framework in various sectors of concern, together with programmes which target conservation of rivers, improvement of urban air quality, enhanced forestation, promote renewable energy technologies and energy efficiency etc., contribute to addressing climate change issues.

Improvement of water in Yamuna river

1239. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that inspite of spending colossal amount for cleaning the stretch of Yamuna river there is no improvement in the condition of water;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to release some more funds for the same; and